

**Department of Transportation
State Project No. 12-95
Safety Improvements on Route 533 between Goodwin and Box Mountain Roads
Town of Bolton**

**Public Informational Meeting
July 31, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.
Bolton Town Hall
222 Bolton Center Road**

Minutes

Representatives Present:

Connecticut Department of Transportation:

William Britnell, P.E., Principal Engineer
Scott Bushee, P.E., Project Manager
Jaymes Tanski, P.E. Project Engineer
Jessica Darling, Design Engineer
Michael Marzi, Office of Rights of Way

Town of Bolton:

Robert R. Morra, First Selectman
Joyce M. Stille, Administrative Officer
Pamela Z. Sawyer, State Representative

Presentation: Following a 30-minute informal open house session regarding Safety Improvements on Route 533 between Goodwin and Box Mountain Roads, Mr. Bushee and Mr. Tanski gave a PowerPoint presentation lasting approximately 15 minutes. Mr. Marzi then discussed the rights-of-way process.

The presentation described the history of the project along with the purpose and safety benefits.

The presentation covered the following items:

- ⇒ History: In 2006, DOT received a complaint about safety concerns from a resident. DOT subsequently installed new curve warning signs, which slightly reduced the number of crashes. However, it was felt that more substantial work was needed. The proposed reconstruction project on Route 533 was then initiated in 2009.
- ⇒ Crash Patterns: There are about 5 crashes per year within the project area. More than half of the crashes occur north of the curves on Route 533, preceding Box Mountain Road.
- ⇒ Proposed Improvements: Sightlines will be improved by softening the horizontal and vertical curves. Superelevation (banking of the curve) will be provided, roadside clear zone improvements, guiderail upgrades, drainage improvements, and additional lighting provided with the project.

Public Comments and Questions: Approximately 20 residents and public officials attended, of which approximately half took the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. The comments are summarized below:

1. Greater improvements at Box Mountain Road; specifically Box Mountain Road needs to be wider – residents stated that school buses can't physically make the turn, and it is not wide enough for two cars at the intersection with Route 533, if one is entering and one is leaving. The need for better intersection sight distance from Box Mountain Road was brought up several times.
2. Many residents were concerned about excessive speed throughout the project vicinity and whether the project would promote higher speeds. It was also noted that there has been a history of drunk drivers in the area and there is bar at the end of the street. Several residents previously inquired with the local police about enforcement and were told that the police would not ticket in the area, because there is no safe place for officers to pull-off the side of the road.
3. Some residents wanted a wider and straighter roadway, feeling the project was not doing enough to address safety. One resident asked if the project met all design standards. It was explained that several design exceptions would be required and that meeting those design standards could conflict with interests for traffic calming and would be substantially more disruptive to private property, including a few total property acquisitions. First Selectman Morra asked about wider paved shoulders for bike and pedestrian accommodations. The pros and cons were discussed, and he stated his preference was to keep the roadway width at 26 feet, but with a walkable turf shelf where possible.
4. Several residents inquired about centerline rumble strips. The Department explained the conflicts with noise in a residential area, but said if the community wanted them, rumble strips would be considered. State Representative Sawyer noted noise conflicts on Route 6, where it seemed the residents no longer wanted to pursue them due to noise.
5. One resident asked about installation of a speed radar sign. The Department stated that it would need to be supplied and maintained by the Town.
6. State Representative Sawyer asked if recessed centerline reflectors or other devices to make the road "easier to drive" could be included in the project. The Department agreed to review the request.

The general consensus was that safety improvements are needed at this location.

Adjournment: The question and answer session was concluded at approximately 8:45 p.m. The Department representatives then continued to speak with residents informally until approximately 9:00 p.m.